



The within invention is distinguishable from prior art in that the primary purpose and embodiment of the invention is as a pre-surgical safety, warning, notification, and/or alerting device, intended to alert surgical health care providers that they are NOT at the intended surgical site.

2. DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

2.1 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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An object of this invention is to provide a novel pre-surgical method of providing safety, warning, notification and/or alerting device, intended to help avoid accidental surgical procedures from being performed on patients' unintended limbs, tissue and/or other body parts.

2.2 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a front view of a pre-surgical alerting device, according to the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a view of both sides of a pre-surgical alerting device, according to the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a front view of another pre-surgical alerting device, according to the present invention.

FIG. 4 is a front view of a pre-surgical alerting and notifying system, according to the present invention.

2.3 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The present invention concerns a novel method of providing a pre-surgical safety, warning, notification, and/or alerting device to help avoid surgical

procedures from being accidentally performed on patients' unintended limbs, tissue and/or other body parts.

In the following description, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide thorough understanding of the present invention. It will be obvious, however, to one skilled in the art that the present invention may be practiced without these specific details. Some well-known methods and structures have not been set forth in order not to unnecessarily obscure the description of the present invention.

C² The preferred embodiment of the invention includes a vinyl, PVC, cellulose, woven filament, fabric or other material strip 10 of various sizes (e.g. 2 inches by 3 inches) and/or shapes (rectangle, square, round or other) in various color combinations (red, white, etc.). As shown in Figure 1, the strip 10 may be constructed of material with perforations 20 to allow oxygen to diffuse to the underlying skin. Such a strip 10 may be similar in construction to bandage wound care products without the wound pad. Alternatively, as shown in Figure 3, a skin-penetrative appliqué 30 such as a temporary tattoo may be attached to a patient as the vehicle for alerting health care providers to a site which is not intended for a medical procedure. The strip 10 is intended to remain in place for between 24 to 48 hours.

Words, pictorial images, and/or other warning message(s) 16 are printed on the superior side 12 of the strip 10. As best shown in Figure 2, the inferior side 14 of the strip 10 is coated with adhesive 18, similar to that customarily used on bandage wound care products. In this manner, the strip 10 can be affixed to the skin of a patient prior to surgery or other medical procedure. Non-stick peelable backing 22 is affixed to the inferior side 14 of the strip 10 and is intended to be removed prior to use. The invention is/may be packaged in a sterile sleeve envelope or on a continuous roll (not shown).

The strip 10 may be affixed to the patient pre-surgically by the patient, physician, and/or other health care provider. The invention may beneficially include a companion label 24 which is a miniature version of the strip 10. The companion label 24 is intended to be affixed to the patient's medical chart (not shown) to document that the alerting strip 10 has been utilized and has been affixed to pertinent or appropriate area(s) of the patient in order to warn the surgical health care provider(s) that they are not at the intended surgical site. As shown in Figure 1, identical numbers 28 on both the

alerting strip 10 and the companion label 24 establish that a particular strip 10 is related to the companion label 24 with the corresponding numeral 28.

As shown in Figure 4, a system comprising an alerting strip 10 and a corresponding strip 26 may be used, to establish with certainty the appropriate location for a medical procedure. When the system shown in Figure 4 is used, the alerting strip 10 is attached to an area of the patient's body which should not be effected by a surgical procedure. The corresponding strip 26 is purposely attached to the area of the patient's body which should be effected by the surgical procedure, and provides notice of the proper surgical site by a visual indicator. The visual indicator of the corresponding strip 26 can be as simple as the words "CUT HERE", although it will be understood that other indicators can also be used.

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The foregoing constitute the best mode known by the applicant for carrying out this invention; however, the specific embodiments disclosed are illustrative of the principle of the invention and are not limiting in scope. To the contrary, it is recognized that one of ordinary skill in the art, given this teaching, may make variations in the structure or compositions without departing from the spirit and scope of this invention. Its scope is defined by the following claims including the protection offered by the doctrine of equivalents.
